

### **More \$\$ for Award Winning SafeRide Program**

During the 2013-15 biennial budget deliberations, the Tavern League of Wisconsin lobbied to secure an additional \$192,000 over the biennium for Wisconsin's successful SafeRide Program. With the support from Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette) and Representative Rob Swearingen (R-Rhineland) a change to the funding formula was made to provide additional state revenue for the SafeRide Program.

Last year, approximately \$830,000 was spent to operate and administer the program, which provided nearly 75,000 free rides home to individuals who had one to many to drink. Over 1,600 Tavern League members from around the state participate in the program, which was first established in 1985.

Because funding for the SafeRide program is tied to the OWI surcharge, funding for the program has been declining in recent years as drunken driving convictions are down dramatically. This is in contrast to the popularity of the program, which grew by an estimated 10% from the previous year. The additional funds secured during the biennial budget were necessary in the short term to continue the financial viability of the program, as well as help it grow into the future. We will continue to work to grow the Award Winning SafeRide Program and continue to secure additional funding sources to meet the demands of the program.